

JOHN WILLIAM GILES

John William Giles, son of William Giles and Christina Carlile, was born March 17, 1869, in Heber City, Utah. From a very humble start as a pioneer boy, he raised to prominence and became a community leader.

On November 23, 1892, in the Logan Temple, he married Rachel Ann Taylor. He was the father of six children: Mrs. John E. Danielson (Ella), Mrs. Earl Smith (May), Taylor, Mont., who married Lorraine Murdock, Mrs. W. C. Wilcox (Sophrona), Mrs. Floyd Kinsey (Viola), and two foster children, Mrs. Leon Ritchie (Elda Robbins) and John Curtis Robbins, who married Glenna Lawrence, were reared in his home. Taylor passed away during the influenza epidemic, while serving as an LDS missionary in the Northern States.

His Church and civic activities were many and successful. He was a city councilman many years and helped organize and was a member of the first board of directors of the Wasatch Chamber of Commerce. He served as president of the North Field Irrigation Co. and also as president

of the Provo River Water Users' Protective Assn. He was a member of the fire board and served long as a member of the light and power board, during which time he experienced the installation of the "white way" lighting system along Heber City's Main Street. Distinction came to him when he was asked to serve on the Wasatch County fair board and help organize the Wasatch County Fair. He was chairman of the barbecue committee for many years, during which time thousands of people enjoyed delicious barbecued sandwiches prepared by him at "fair time."

He was ward collector and enjoyed planning and helping at the time Heber Second Ward chapel was erected.

He had special enthusiasm and ability in road building, most roads in Wasatch County bearing his marks of improvement.

Without compensation, save the satisfaction and joy of seeing children and friends have paths by which to go to school and to work, early winter mornings found him plowing paths through the deep snow with his home-made plow and trusty team. This service was done over all the city streets.

He had many friends among the Indians. Oftentimes his back yard was a welcome campsite for Uncle Jesse Copperfield and others during their shoooping days in Heber. They were always welcome guests at his table for meals. He was the recipient of many Indian gifts and relics because of his acts of friendship and kindness.

He was a pioneer livestock man, riding the range in both winter and summer. An interesting side occupation he enjoyed very much was that of freighting for the Heber Mercantile Co.

He was a true friend, no person ever being turned away hungry from his home or camp.

He died from a sudden heart attack on July 8, 1942.

RACHEL ANN TAYLOR GILES

The 24th day of September, 1872, heralded the arrival of little Rachel Ann Taylor, the third child born to Mary Horrocks and Joseph Walker Taylor. Ann, born April 11, 1868, died suddenly when a little past a year old. Alice was 2½ when Rachel Ann

was born and was delighted to have a new little sister.

Father Joseph worked hard to support his little family. He had many plans to provide the best for his two small daughters, but in the late summer, just two years after Rachel's birth, he took pneumonia while herding his cattle in the foothills of Santaquin, Utah, and the illness took his life September 21, 1875.

Grief-stricken, Mother Mary packed her belongings and left Rachel's birth place, Santaquin, to live in Heber, Wasatch County, Utah, where she could be near her parents.

Rachel Ann was unable to attend school until she was eight years old. The loss of her father left the family in serious financial straits and there was little money to spare for education. However, she gratefully attended the old Sleepy Hollow School between the ages of eight and 11.

She herded cows along the ditch banks during her summer vacations, and while she kept her lonely watch she sewed clothes for her little doll from scraps found among her mother's "rug rags." This humble beginning saw her develop into one of the finest seamstresses in Heber Valley.

Mother Mary was industrious, making rugs and carpets to earn a living for her and her three daughters. (After moving to Heber she married William Cook and by him had another daughter, Mary Elizabeth. Mary and William didn't live together long and this left Mary to care for her small children alone as before.) But for all her efforts, she could not meet the ever-growing needs of her family, and Rachel Ann was forced to leave school at the age of 11 to help out. She was employed by President Abram Hatch to clean house and help care for his seven children. She also worked for Tom Hicken, Dave Hicken, and Sarah Buys.

She had little time for recreation, but managed to find time to sing in the ward choir, under the direction of Sam Wing. She had a sweet soprano voice and was a member of the choir 17 years.

Another choir member was John William Giles, a handsome bass singer. Sometimes after choir rehearsal they would join a square dancing group in the "Old Hall" and for a time Rachel could forget the re-

sponsibilities which were heaped upon her young shoulders.

Their friendship grew to love and eventually "Will" proposed. On a cold November day, when she was but 19, they set off in a horse drawn carriage on a 24-hour journey to Logan, Utah, where they were married in the Logan LDS Temple on November 23, 1892.

The couple made their home in a neat one-room structure on First West and Second South Streets, which was frequently enlarged to meet the needs of their growing family. Two daughters, Ella LaPreal and Annie May; two sons, Taylor and William Montell, and finally two more daughters, Mary Sophrona and Viola, were born of this marriage. They also reared two small children of a nephew, Hyrum W. Robbins, whose wife died from influenza. They were John Curtis and Elda, and they have been to Rachel, William and their family a son and a daughter, a brother and a sister.

Rachel Ann was called to be a Relief Society visiting teacher in August of 1905, when her third daughter, Sophrona, was only eight days old. She served in this position two years, when she was released to become second counselor to Heber Second Ward Relief Society. Because of her faithful service she was soon made first counselor, and in September, 1919, she was set apart as Relief Society president of Heber Second Ward, Wasatch Stake.

During her service in the Relief Society she was frequently called to leave her family (often in the middle of the night) to care for the sick, the dying, and to prepare the dead for burial. She was particularly hard-pressed during the influenza epidemic in 1918.

It was this same epidemic which took the life of her eldest son, Taylor, as he completed his twentieth month as a missionary in the Northern States Mission. His sudden death while in the service of the Lord was a great test of faith for the entire family. But because they had a testimony of the gospel they passed the test with the realization that they were parted from their son and brother for only a short time.

Rachel Ann became well known throughout Wasatch County as a fine and depend-

able seamstress. Because she was constantly striving for perfection she acquired the exacting arts of cutting, fitting and expert finishing. Her greatest delight is her beautiful cut-work embroidery and her elegant quilting. She has won many blue ribbons at the Wasatch County Fair and at the Utah State Fair. At the age of 81 she was awarded the grand championship ribbon at the Wasatch County Fair for her individual display.

She was widowed in 1942, when a sudden heart attack claimed William, her partner of almost 50 years. Because of her understanding of the teachings of the gospel and her diligence in rearing a good and loyal family she has never been alone. She can honestly say, "I have lived a good life," for she has been faithful to her membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and faithful to her duties as a wife and mother. Her posterity, eight children (including her two "foster" children), 20 grandchildren, and 33 great-grandchildren, look upon her with great love and respect.

*Board member
of Light & Power
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HEBER BIOGRAPHIES

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